



REPORT

ON

Economic and Commercial Conditions
in British West Indies & British Guiana
for the year 1955

SURE K. SANKARAN PILLAI

Issued by

Editor, Publications,

Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Government of India, New Delhi



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Report on Economic and Commercial Conditions in British West Indies and British Guiana for the year 1955

CHAPTER I—INTRODUCTION

The Commissioner for the Government of India in British West Indies and British Guiana is accredited to the colonies of Trinidad and Tobago, British Guiana, Jamaica, Barbados and the Islands of Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent in the Windward Islands group. The area and the population of these colonies are given below—

Name of Island	Area Sq. Miles	Population	Year	Capital
Trinidad and Tobago ..	1,864 116 }	678,350	1954-55	Port of Spain
British Guiana ..	83,000	462,872	1954-55	Georgetown
Jamaica ..	4,411·21	1,517,200	1954-55	Kingston
Barbados ..	166	219,015	1954-55	Bridgetown
Grenada ..	133	81,070	1954-55	St. George's
St. Lucia ..	233	84,812	1954-55	Castries
St. Vincent ..	150	71,392	1954-55	Kingstown

The population in these colonies consists mainly of persons of African stock with small proportions of persons of European and mixed blood. In the colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad and Tobago there are considerable numbers of persons of Indian origin amounting to about 46 per cent of the population in British Guiana and 36 per cent in Trinidad and Tobago. The climate of these islands is largely tropical. Sugar used to be the mainstay of all these Caribbean Colonies until very recent times. In Trinidad, with the discovery of oil, the production and manufacture of sugar have taken a back place. Similarly in British Guiana and Jamaica, dependence on sugar is gradually being relaxed by progressive exploitation of other natural resources, particularly bauxite. Trade with India is of insignificant proportions forming less than one per cent of the total overseas trade of these colonies.

The currency in use is the British West Indian dollar in all these colonies except in Jamaica where Jamaican Pound is also legal tender. The Jamaican Pound is on par with the English Pound while the British West Indian Dollar is equal to four shillings and two pence or 4·80 dollars to a pound. One dollar is approximately equal to Rs. 2-12-0 and Rs. 100 equals \$ 36·00 (BWI).

The system of weights and measures used in commerce is the same as that in the United Kingdom. English is the lingua franca.

The major cities and towns in Trinidad are Port of Spain (population 50), San Fernando (population 35,000) both of which are ports also, the latter catering mainly to the Tourist Industry. Scarborough is the Capital of Barbados. There is a regular shipping service by the Nourse Line between Georgetown and Port of Spain with frequencies of sailing once in four to six weeks. Port of Spain is the principal air port, an internationally important airport served by BOAC, PAA, KLM, AIR FRANCE, BRAZILIAN and VENEZUELAN AIRWAYS.

In British Guiana, the capital Georgetown has a population of 86,412. It is the principal sea port of the colony, the other port being New Amsterdam, the second biggest town in the colony.

The capital of Jamaica is Kingston (population 322,696). Other principal towns are Annotto Bay, Brown's Town, Christiana, Falmouth, Linstead, Spanish Town, Montego Bay, Port Maria, Spanish Town.

All the colonies are served by airlines. The Nourse Line boats from Georgetown touch only Port of Spain, Barbados and Kingston. There is no return service direct from the Caribbean to India.

CHAPTER II—GENERAL

Trinidad and Tobago

The year under review did not record any important economic changes in the colony of Trinidad and Tobago. Production of both industrial and agricultural commodities showed a steady increase and the overseas trade of the colony rose to a record figure of 548.1 million dollars in 1955. The prosperity of the colony is dependent to a great extent on oil and its by-products. The fact is clearly demonstrated when it is observed that three fourths of the colony's exports in value are derived from the oil industry. There were no major upheavals economically and the country was prosperous. The cost of living did not record any substantial increase and the index number of retail prices recorded only minor variations from 111.5 in January to 113.8 in December while the highest point reached was 114.6 in August and September.

British Guiana

In British Guiana too, economic conditions were buoyant. Production continued to increase in bauxite and sugar industries, as also in the rice growing industry. Both imports and exports showed substantial increase and the Government's new economic development plan brought in increasing quantities of capital and consumer goods to the colony. The general level of the cost of living did not show any appreciable increase and while there were murmurings among the sugar workers about the inadequacy of their wages there have been no major industrial disputes or conflicts in this colony either.

Jamaica

Compared to British Guiana or Trinidad, Jamaica is poorer and living standards are lower. The revenue and the overseas trade are proportionately smaller on the basis of the population. However, unlike the other two colonies mentioned a cabinet system of Government with responsibility towards the legislature exists in this colony and the new Government have to put their heart and soul in raising the standards of living by the starting of new industries either state sponsored or privately owned and by development projects. The colony was formerly dependent on sugar and bananas to a large extent but with increasing exploitation of bauxite there are distinct indications that the general economic condition of the colony will undergo a change for the better. The cost of living in Jamaica is higher than that in either Trinidad or British Guiana due to the protected national industries of the colony. It is hoped that with more and more industrialisation in the offing the conditions would change for the better.

CHAPTER III—AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Trinidad

Sugar—Harvesting of the 1954-55 crop came to an end during April—June and the crop amounting 192,793 tons of sugar was the largest ever produced. This is an increase of 12 per cent compared with 1953-54 crop.

Molasses produced for 1955 was 8,483,004 gallons representing an increase of 10 per cent over the figure for the previous year.

Cocoa—There has been a crisis in the cocoa market which led the Cocoa Exporters Committee to announce a reduction of 25 per cent in the prices of cocoa bought by them for exports. The prevailing price till the end of January 1956 was \$44.00 per fanega or 40 c per lb. (Rs. 1-2-0). They also announced that the reduction became necessary owing to a catastrophic decline in cocoa prices in the New York and U.K. markets. The reason for the fall in prices was attributed to the reduced consumption of chocolate products, increased production of cocoa in Africa and Brazil, the tightness of credits by the Banks in the U.K., which has prevented manufacturers and dealers in the cocoa market in carrying large stocks as is done normally, and the fall in the demand from the U.K. and Europe. The cocoa market is in a very demoralised state. It is estimated that upto 90 per cent of the cocoa producers in Trinidad are small farmers and this decline in prices will hit them hard and is bound to have disastrous consequences. Actual figures of production are not available, but from the figures available it is observed that 16,698,000 lb. were exported in 1955 as compared with 17,455,000 lbs. in 1954.

Bananas—Figures of production are not available, but the number of stems purchased by the Marketing Board is an approximate measure of the extent of production. 77,932 stems were purchased by the Marketing Board as against 83,149 in 1954.

Citrus—Actual figures of production are not available, but from deliveries to the packers it was observed that 102,291 crates of oranges and 540,844 crates of grape fruits were delivered for export in 1955 as against 72,708 crates of oranges and 396,633 crates of grape fruits in 1954. Besides these 265,000 gallons of orange juice and 109,600 gallons of grape fruit juice were also exported in 1955 as against 166,000 and 763,000 gallons, respectively, in 1954.

Coffee—There was a decrease in the quantity exported in 1955 than the figure for 1954. Only 3.1 million lbs. were exported in 1955 as against 4.0 million lbs. in 1954. The actual figures of production are, however, not available.

Coconuts—Frequent heavy rains have affected the production of sun-dried copra. However, about 75,000 cwt. were exported in 1955 as compared with only 17,000 cwt. in 1954.

Sugar—Production of sugar in 1955 was 250,111 tons (including 5,198 tons made from farmers' cane), which was 11,189 tons more than in 1954. Sugar exports totalled 260,205 tons as compared with 243,886 tons in 1954.

Rice—Crop estimates by the Department of Agriculture in respect of the 1954 autumn crop and the 1955 spring crop indicated yields of 88,534 tons and 6,663 tons of rice respectively making a total of 95,197 tons of milled rice available for disposal during the 1954-55 crop year. The Rice Marketing Board purchased 66,461 tons of rice while farmers milled for their own domestic consumption 11,475 tons of rice. After taking into account carry-over stocks in the Board's possession, this quantity was disposed off as follows—

Exported—48,495 tons

Sold locally—18,392 tons.

The exports represent the highest quantity ever exported by the Board.

Trinidad, Barbados, the Leeward and Windward Islands have entered into contracts with the Board to cover their import requirement for 1955-56 and 1957. For the year 1955 and 1956 the prices have been fixed as follows—

Super \$ 19.65 per bag of 180 lb. gross f.o.b. Georgetown.

First quality . . . \$ 18.75 per bag of 180 lb. gross f.o.b. Georgetown.

Second quality . . \$ 17.85 per bag of 180 lb. gross f.o.b. Georgetown.

Coconuts—The estimate of coconuts produced during the year was 57.4 million, an increase of 6.1 million over 1954. The production of copra was 6,114 tons as compared with 5,276 tons in 1954.

Jamaica

Citrus—The annual total of fresh citrus fruits exported between 1951 and 1954 were 197,983, 142,677, 161,222 and 112,670 packages, respectively. In the first nine months of 1955, 102,673 packages were exported and estimate for 1956 is 177,000 packages.

Coffee—The marketing of coffee in Jamaica is under the control of a Coffee Industry Board made up generally of coffee growers themselves operating within the general frame work of Government policy in carrying out a Five Year Plan for agriculture. In the drive for greater production, free seedlings are being given to growers. The next stage is to extract more coffee per acre, so that the price can come down without loss to the producer. The soil, climate, rainfall and altitude of the Blue Mountain Range are ideal for the growth of coffee and Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee is sought after in Europe and the United States. The latest figures in coffee production shows a total of 175,000 boxes of coffee being received by the Government Central Factory as against the corresponding figure of 117,000 boxes in 1954.

Banana—Detailed figures of production are not available but it has been stated that Jamaican banana exports to the Commonwealth countries including U.K. increased from 3.7 million stems in 1951 to nearly 10.9 million stems in 1955 and that the estimated figure for 1956 is 13,000,000 stems.

Sugar—Jamaica exported 212,676 tons of sugar in 1951, 199,336 tons in 1952, 274,676 in 1953, 321,398 in 1954 and 291,811 tons in 1955. The estimated figure for 1956 is 270,000 tons.

CHAPTER IV—INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Trinidad

The total production of crude petroleum in Trinidad during the year 1955 was 25·0 million barrels or 5 per cent more than for 1954. The number of oil wells in production was 2,780 out of a total of 4,535 which were in existence by the end of December 1955. The total footage drilled for January to December 1955 was about 8 per cent more than the figure of 911,233 in 1954.

The total production of natural gas for the period January—December 1955 was 40·9 million cubic feet or 6 per cent more than for the corresponding period of 1954.

The total production of asphalt for the year 1955 was 136,729 tons or 4 per cent less than the corresponding figures of 1954.

British Guiana

Bauxite—The largest single bauxite operation in the world—in the interior of British Guiana achieved a record production in 1955. The total bauxite produced in 1955 is 2,435,282 tons as against 2,309,919 tons produced in 1954.

Gold—The quantity produced in 1955 was 23,766 ozs. as against 26,938 ozs. in 1954, a decrease of 3,172 ozs.

Diamonds—33,300 carats were produced in 1955 as against 30,073 carats in 1954, thus registering an increase of 3,227 carats.

Figures of industrial production in Jamaica for 1955 are not yet available. The major industries in the colony are textiles (one mill), footwear, sawmills, soap, cement, metal-ware and bauxite mining.

CHAPTER V—PRICES AND PRICE CONTROL

Trinidad

There were no great fluctuations in prices of commodities in Trinidad except in the case of cocoa. The index of retail prices rose only by 2·3 points during January to December, from 111·5 to 113·8, having reached a maximum of 114·6 in September. The controlled price of imported rice was increased from 13 cents to 13½ cents per lb. by the end of December 1955 when it was derationed. The price control of all copra products was removed and the only items on the price controlled list at the end of the year were, kerosene, sugar, rice and gasoline.

There were only two significant drops in prices by the end of the year as compared with the prices of the previous month in the average price of local rice (31 per cent) and Irish potatoes (23 per cent). The average prices of the remaining commodities were about the same as in the previous year.

The subsidy on imported rice was removed by the end of the year, raising the price of the imported rice by ½ cent per lb. No item of food is now subsidised.

Details from other colonies are not available.

CHAPTER VI—LABOUR CONDITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT

Trinidad

The major portion of the labour force in Trinidad is employed by the four main industries of the Island, namely, sugar, oil, shipping and asphalt. The biggest number of persons was employed by the oil industry which increased its labour force to 19,761 in fourth quarter of 1955 as against 19,686 for the corresponding period in 1954. The number of labourers employed in sugar industry, however, showed a decline by 2,440 from the figure of 13,913 employed in the fourth quarter of 1954. Employment figures in the other two industries showed slight increase over the last year's figures. The Central Government, the largest single employer accounted for 27,100 or about 44 per cent of the total employed persons in the colony.

There were no major labour disputes or strikes during 1955.

British Guiana

The latest figures available for British Guiana indicate (1954) the following distribution of labourers in various industries.

Commodity				1952	1953	1954
Sugar (average)	..	..	..	21,948	20,503	22,054
Sugar factories (average)	..	..	..	5,547	5,804	5,845
Rice:						
Maximum	..	..	..	1,164	1,144	1,003
Minimum	..	..	..	451	750	509
Bauxite:						
Maximum	..	..	..	3,171	2,872	2,712
Minimum	..	..	..	3,029	2,669	2,537
Timber:						
H	..	..	..	..	1,160	1,619
L	..	..	..	..	803	1,150
Waterfront	..	..	..	..	669	782
Government Services	..	..	..	..	4,299	4,896

(Source : Colonial Report 1954)

Jamaica

In the case of Jamaica, the following are the figures for 1954 for non-agricultural workers which are the latest available:—

Commodities ..					Maximum	Minimum
Food, drink, tobacco	..	..	..	..	12,211	7,699
Textiles, footwear, etc.	..	..	..	..	5,276	2,467
Metal Industries	..	..	..	..	5,131	3,916
Construction	..	..	..	..	3,980	2,230
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	1,050	618
Total					53,859	34,035

(Source : Survey of Industrial Establishments of Jamaica—1954.)

There were no major strikes or industrial upheavals during the year.

CHAPTER VII—TRANSPORT

The Nourse Line operators a direct service from Calcutta to the British West Indies and Caribbean area. Sailings during the first half of the year are, however, only once in two months but from July until December there is at least one sailing every month, with extra vessel berthed if the demand is sufficient. The vessels touch Colombo, Mauritius, Durban, Cape Town, Trinidad Barbados, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Cuban Ports. These vessels, however, do not call at British Guiana ports. Cargo is also accepted from Madras or Bombay, direct calls being made if there is sufficient inducement.

A new shipping service has been inaugurated to link British Guiana with other West Indian Islands which will help movement of cargo between the Caribbean Islands. The service is provided by the West Indies Navigation Co. Ltd. with their vessels s.s. West Indian. The service, it is understood, is fulfilling a long standing need of the West Indies and it has been decided that the 'West Indian' will call at British Guiana every six weeks. Plans are also afoot for the provision of another vessel. The service is, however, maintained at a heavy loss which is shared by the Governments of the various colonies.

A Japanese Shipping concern viz. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha Shipping Line has been operating a new service beginning from the year 1956 from Japan to Pacific North West ports (Vancouver, Seattle) and Pacific South West ports (San Francisco to Los Angeles). These boats touch Port of Spain, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires and will provide facilities for improved trade between Japan and British West Indies and America.

The British West Indian Airways inaugurated a new service between Caribbean colonies and New York. The B.W.I.A. are attempting to cut-in on the profitable tourist traffic between the U.S.A. and the Caribbean colonies, which has largely been in the hands of the American Airlines till now. They are also using the new Vickers Viscount aircrafts for their new service.

CHAPTER VIII—FOREIGN TRADE

Trinidad

The total volume of exports from Trinidad including re-exports for the year 1955 amounted to \$285.9 million as against \$262.2 millions in 1954 showing an increase of 23.7 million dollars over the last year's figure. The total imports amounted to \$294.0 millions as against \$249.8 millions for 1954—an increase of \$44.1 million dollars.

Imports exceeded exports in 1955 leaving an adverse balance of trade to the extent of 9 million dollars as compared with surpluses of 12 and 20 million dollars in the preceding two years. This is attributed to the fall in the exports of petroleum products in the last quarter of 1955 by 5.8 million dollars and also to the fall in the export of cocoa by 2.3 million dollars due to bad weather conditions.

Large increases were marked in the import of the following items—

Food—Rice .. .. .	..	by \$1.0 million
Mineral, fuel and crude petroleum ..	..	by \$8.6 million
Manufactured goods—Iron and steel ..	..	by \$4.4 million.
Machinery and transport equipment ..	..	by \$4.9 million.
Motor cars and other passenger and road vehicles .. .. .	..	by \$4.9 million.
Electrical Machinery .. .. .	..	by \$2.1 million.

Domestic produce registered a record in export during the year 1955. \$279 million worth of goods were exported during the year 1955, the highest figure ever recorded in the colony's export trade and about 22 million dollars above the figures of 1954. Petroleum products and sugar accounted for 76 per cent and 11 percent respectively of the total export and were chiefly responsible for the increase. The other domestic produce exported were cocoa, beans, asphalt and rum which showed a decrease by 1.7, 0.4 and 0.2 per cent respectively over the last year's figure.

Direction of Trade—The sterling area accounted for the bulk of the overseas trade of the colony, the import and exports being 46 and 52 per cent of the total trade while the dollar area accounted for 18.8 per cent and 8.8 per cent of the imports and exports respectively.

U.K. continues to be the leading trade partner supplying about 38 per cent of the total imports and taking more than 39 per cent of the total exports. Total imports and exports from the dollar area were \$53.5 million and \$25.2 million as against \$44.5 million and \$28.2 million respectively for the last year. (See Appendix I for complete trade returns).

British Guiana

External Trade—External trade for 1955 was placed at \$179.0 million as compared to \$165 million in 1954. Exports were in the vicinity of \$87 million which is about \$1½ million higher than the previous year while imports were placed at \$92 million as compared with \$80 million in 1954. Between 1947 and 1952 there was tremendous expansion in foreign trade registering increases of imports by 100 per cent in value and 50 per cent in volume. During the same period imports also registered corresponding increases. Since 1952 the external trade has been expanding at a substantially slower rate than in the earlier period, the increases being more in import account than in exports.

The negative trade balance of \$5 million in 1955 as compared to the positive balance of \$5½ million the previous year is not without its significance. With the exception of the years 1953-54, adverse trade balances have been a feature of the post war years which in the particular circumstances of the economy are not totally unfavourable. They do not reflect a situation where the country is living off its capital but rather a desirable inflow of funds for development.

Increase in the exports of the principal articles during the period is shown in the table below by commodities.

(In thousands of BWI dollars)

Article						1954	1955
Rum	..	..	..	..	..	2,150.9	2,578.9
Bauxite	..	..	..	..	..	218.3	236.6
Matches	..	..	..	..	..	57.0	59.0
Rice	..	..	..	..	..	8,449.2	11,456.6
Balata	..	..	..	..	..	259.2	410.2
Diamonds	..	..	..	..	..	1,049.6	1,251.0
Timber	..	..	..	..	..	841.9	1,293.4

The most important item which showed decrease in exports was sugar which fell from \$37.6 millions in 1954 to \$35.3 millions in 1955. Gold also showed decrease from \$837,500 in 1954 to \$773,400 in 1955. A detailed statement of imports and exports is in Appendix II.

Jamaica

The value of imports in the year 1955 was £45,673,000 while that of exports was £33,628,000. This resulted an adverse balance of trade to the extent of £12,051,000.

As in previous years trade with the Sterling Area (mainly U.K.) constituted more than half of the total trade by value although there has been a steady decline. In the year 1955 there were favourable balances of trade with

Canada, Norway and Sweden. The adverse balance of trade with the Dollar Area was £3·3 million as compared to £2·0 million in 1954 and £3·8 million in 1953.

The substantial rise and fall in the balance of trade between 1951 and 1955 is associated with two main causes. Firstly, the hurricane of 1951 caused a decline in staple exports and increased importation of building and other materials for rehabilitation purposes. Secondly, the heavy importation of capital equipment in 1951 and 1952 have subsequently declined sharply and given rise to exports of industrial products, notably of bauxite and alumina. In 1955, however, the figures once more reflect heavy importation of machinery and transport equipment the value of which was 34·8 per cent more than in 1954. (Details of export and import figures are given in the appendix III).

CHAPTER IX—TRADE WITH INDIA AND PROSPECTS

Trinidad

There has been no change in the pattern of import trade with India. Petroleum and petroleum products formed the bulk of the exports, the value being \$ 1,316,500 as against \$ 4,161,200 for 1954. This fall in exports may perhaps be due to the functioning of new refineries in India itself. The principal items of import were—Cotton fabrics (\$ 940,000), spices (\$ 54,000), leather (\$ 29,000), Vegetable oils (\$ 19,000), Textiles other than clothing (\$ 611,000), Floor covering and Tapestries (\$35,000) and Footwear (\$ 319,000). The total imports from India were to the extent of \$ 2,483,000 while exports amounted to \$1,326,000, which were confined to oil and its bye-products only.

The major item of imports was Cotton fabrics followed by Footwear and Spices. The Trinidad Government imposed an increased customs tariff on the lower priced textiles in December 1955 to give protection to the American-owned Trinidad Textile Manufacturing Co., the only textile mill in the Colony and the higher tariffs have adversely affected the imports from India even though the full effects of this could only be seen in 1956. Details of the increased duty are given in para. XIII.

There is a considerable scope for the exports of tea, tobacco, paints and varnishes, electrical goods, etc. The bulk of the tea imported into the Colony came from U.K. and Ceylon. There are two brands of tea available in the market here, Lipton and Red Rose. There is an agent here for Lipton who gets the supply from London blended and packed. It is understood that the Ceylon tea is imported loose and then packed here.

There is also a considerable scope for the import of electrical goods, such as electric fans, and other accessories. The voltage here is 110 A.C. Main and the Indian manufacturers should be advised to manufacture the articles to suit the local requirements. Sewing machines can also find a market here provided the price is competitive. Singer is the most popular among sewing machines. There is also a market for bicycles. The popular makes are Raleigh, Hercules and B.S.A.

From the analysis of imports it is observed that 394,900 lbs. as against 441,700 lbs. in 1954 of tea were imported into the Colony but imports from India were negligible (not quoted), the principal suppliers being U.K., Ceylon, Kenya and Uganda. Imports of spices showed a small increase to 775,100 lbs. from 615,200 lbs. in 1954, the other principal suppliers being French Morocco, and U.K. besides India. France and U.K. were the two other principal suppliers of Vegetable oil except India who supplied 1,300.1 thousand lbs. of the commodity in 1955 as against 1,736.7 thousand lbs. in 1954. The total import of leather during 1955 amounted to 157.1 thousand lb. while the figure for 1954 was 287.9 thousand lbs. U. K. and Netherlands were the two other principal suppliers except India. 20,344,600 sq. yds. of cotton fabrics of all types were imported in 1955, the figure for 1954 being 17,632,100 sq. yds. Besides India the other main suppliers were U.K., Czechoslovakia, Japan and Canada and Newfoundland. In case of textiles (other than clothing) the total import was to the value of \$ 1,652,100 as against \$ 1,317,600 in 1954. In case of floor coverings and

tapestries the imports were shared by U. K. and Italy beside India. The total import in 1955 was 993,000 sq. yds. as against 365,000 sq. yds. in 1954. India shared with U.K. and Canada and Newfoundland in the export of footwear to the Colony. The total value amounted to \$ 4,453,200 as against \$ 4,336,000 in 1954.

As for India's trade with British Guiana and Jamaica this is on the same pattern as with Trinidad. Exports to India from these two colonies are practically nil while imports are mainly textiles, footwear, foodstuff and jute goods. Details of imports from India are given in Appendix IV.

Commercial Publicity

A commercial bulletin 'India Commercial News' embodying current commercial news is published by this Mission every month for the information of the businessmen and Chambers of Commerce in the British West Indies and British Guiana. The journal has a wide circulation and has proved to be useful and informative for the people concerned.

Exhibitions

The Mission participated in the Caribbean Trade Fair at Port of Spain which was formally opened by the Governor of the Colony on 6th May 1955 and which continued till May 22, 1955. During the 17 days the Fair remained open nearly 100,000 persons representing almost a seventh of the colony's population visited it. The Fair was generally acclaimed as the best ever held in the Colony.

Indian exhibits to the fair were restricted to handicraft goods only as shortage of time prevented manufacturers from taking part or sending their goods. The main items shown in the stall were handloom sarees from Madras, Chanderi sarees from Indore, leather toys, ivory statutes, brass wares, art wares, costume jewellery, wood carvings, banarsi sarees, etc. These were widely admired by the people of all nationalities and races. While there were a large number of consumer enquiries, trade enquiries were few mainly because there are already a number of Indian merchants well established here who deal in these goods and who have their own agents in India.

Another exhibition was held in Georgetown, British Guiana on 26th January to coincide with the Indian Republic Day 1956. The exhibition was arranged in collaboration with Messrs. Wm. Fogarty Ltd., who are one of the biggest departmental stores in Georgetown. The exhibition lasted 11 days and culminated with a Saree parade organised by the Indian ladies in Georgetown and participated by ladies belonging to various nations.

Tariffs

Trinidad—In order to give protection to the only American-owned textile mill in the Colony the Government of Trinidad and Tobago have revised the custom tariff on certain types of cotton textiles with effect from November 1955. This revision of the tariff was mainly aimed to give protection to the local industry from competition against Indian textiles. The following categories of textiles were affected:—

- (i) Grey cotton fabrics (unbleached) valued at not more than 24 cents a sq. yd.

- (ii) White and bleached cotton fabrics valued at not more than 28 cents a sq. yd.
- (iii) Printed cotton fabrics valued at not more than 36 cents a sq. yd.
- (iv) Dyed in the piece and coloured cotton fabrics valued at not more than 28 cents a yard.

A customs surcharge of 12 cents per yard are being levied on all the four categories of cotton textiles mentioned above. The measure will be in force for a period of two years after which the position will be reviewed again.

British Guiana

British Guiana—The Government had agreed to the demand for the increase of customs duty on various items including cotton manufactures, like hosiery, underwear, etc. The shirt manufacturers were also pressing for the increase in the duty on foreign shirts and the Government had also acceded to their request. A statement giving the revised customs tariff is given in Appendix V.

Trade Complaints

Fifty nine trade complaints were received during 1955 of which 35 have been already settled. Twenty four complaints are still outstanding.

Trade Enquiries

130 trade enquiries were received from exporters in India and 57 from the importers of the Colonies in British West Indies and British Guiana.

Conclusion

Even though the Commissioner is accredited to other colonies, it has not been possible to report about India's trade with these colonies because of the absence of published statistics for 1955. Among the Colonies Trinidad and Tobago alone has a good statistical organisation and this, apart from the fact the Commission is situated in Port of Spain, accounts for the greater amount of information about the economic conditions and foreign trade of that colony. So far as the smaller colonies are concerned this foreign trade and trade with India are insignificant comparatively. Even in the case of bigger colonies of Jamaica and British Guiana, statistics are published often months later.

APPENDIX I

Value of Imports, Exports of Domestic and of Foreign Produce

Description	Imports (c.i.f.) 1st Jan. to Dec. 1955.	Exports of domestic produce (f.o.b.) 1st Jan. to Dec. 1955 \$ 000	Exports of foreign produce (c.i.f.) 1st Jan. to Dec. 1955
Food	50,221·8	49,273·9	871·8
Beverages and Tobacco	6,662·3	2,074·3	45·5
Crude (Raw) Materials, Inedible other than Fuels	5,146·1	5,043·7	124·5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and simi- lar Materials	83,485·6	212,687·5	111·7
Animal and Vegetable Oils (not essen- tial oils) and Greases, etc.	840·9	745·1	2·7
Chemicals (dyes, pharmaceuticals, cleansing preparations, fertilizers, etc.)	15,862·9	3,340·0	191·6
Manufactured Goods classified chief- ly by Materials (Manufactures of leather, of wood, of paper, if tex- tiles, of glass, of metals etc.	60,049·0	3,824·3	1,238·5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	49,661·3	200·8	2,473·1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles (furniture, travel goods, clothing, footwear, etc.)	20,732·8	1,181·8	659·5
Miscellaneous Transactions (Postal packages, live animals, returned goods, repaired goods, etc.)	1,260·6	470·6	1,225·3
TOTALS	293,923·4	278,841·9	6,944·0

(Source : Central Statistical Office, Government of Trinidad and Tobago.)

APPENDIX II

Table showing the Principal Items of Domestic Produce Exported during the Years 1955 and 1954

Commodity			Unit of quantity	Quantity		Value \$	
				Jan.—Dec. 1955	Jan.—Dec. 1954	Jan.—Dec. 1955	Jan.—Dec. 1954
Sugar	..	..	Ton	242,525	243,886	40,251,396	41,429,521
Bauxite	..	..	Ton	2,169,221	2,125,535	24,787,365	23,234,607
Rice	..	..	Ton	53,249	36,609	12,515,746	9,266,645
Rum	..	..	P.Gal.	2,159,553	1,593,721	3,132,123	2,335,190
Diamonds	..	..	Carat	32,351	29,583	1,345,644	1,198,636
Timber, round and hewn	..	..	Cub. ft.	825,685	602,971	1,354,748	1,104,615
Timber, sawn	..	..	Cub. ft.	425,791	323,329	1,421,518	1,014,405
Gold	..	..	Oz. Troy	13,972	16,959	825,517	916,903
Charcoal	..	..	Ton	5,251	4,893	253,296	239,043
Spirituos Toilet Preparations	..	..	Gal.	30,637	28,432	273,423	258,783
Molasses	..	..	Gal.	6,843,950	9,211,888	767,237	1,032,088
Balata	..	..	Lb.	482,274	345,932	453,390	323,867
Coffee, raw	..	..	Lb.	417,536	475,440	298,570	362,170

Table showing the Imports of Some of the Principal Articles during the Years 1955 and 1954

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	Quantity				Value \$			
		Jan.—Dec. 1955	Jan.—Dec. 1954	Jan.—Dec. 1955	Jan.—Dec. 1954	Jan.—Dec. 1955	Jan.—Dec. 1954	Jan.—Dec. 1955	Jan.—Dec. 1954
Beer, Ale and Stout	Gal.	468,499	431,089	1,134,710	1,003,803				
Butter	Lb.	723,006	871,819	599,445	727,137				
Fish, salted, smoked or dried	Lb.	4,676,617	4,555,519	1,196,169	1,049,497				
Flour, wheaten ..	Lb.	57,380,769	58,121,011	4,219,356	4,716,471				
Lard and lard substitutes	Lb.	466,561	436,915	150,274	161,384				
Meats, salted and pickled (in brine) ..	Lb.	1,919,849	2,310,466	801,218	919,718				
Milk, Condensed, evaporated and powdered)	Lb.	9,295,816	6,902,073	2,567,554	1,839,328				
Pulse-beans, peas and lentils	Lb.	5,814,786	5,486,013	709,263	613,624				
Vegetables—fresh potatoes	Lb.	19,055,469	21,078,154	856,501	868,465				
Tobacco and manufactures thereof ..	Lb.	666,872	680,135	795,995	824,527				
Bags, and sacks of Jute or Hessian ..	Doz.	408,314	177,518	2,564,216	1,023,711				
Footwear (all kinds)	Doz. pr.	75,629	60,038	2,367,103	2,088,956				
Cotton Fabrics ..	Sq. yd.	7,066,617	6,628,165	2,805,103	2,873,922				
Fabrics of Synthetic Fibres	Sq.yd.	6,510,021	6,491,675	3,006,395	3,312,392				
Machinery & parts .. ..	..	..	..	12,271,171	12,336,722				
Medicines and Pharmaceutical Products ..	..	..	..	1,549,367	1,328,964				
Motor cars, lorries and vans, etc. ..	No.	1,275	814	2,956,005	1,849,932				
Motor spirit ..	Ton	17,068	13,373	1,467,998	1,059,206				
Paints and enamels ..	Lb.	2,570,577	1,860,054	1,080,692	774,931				
Paper manufactures	Lb.	6,964,820	5,270,830	1,653,031	1,399,244				
Sulphate of ammonia	Ton	11,967	11,731	1,309,491	1,210,909				

(Source:—Comptroller of Customs & Excise, Br. Guiana.)

APPENDIX III

The Principal Items of Domestic Produce Exported and Items Imported during 1955

(In £)

Description					Imports	Domestic exports	Re- Exports
Food	..	..	..	..	9,106,404	20,981,455	30,999
Beverages and Tobacco			..	..	915,697	1,585,059	110,411
Crude Materials, Inedible, excl. Fuels	..			..	1,665,618	9,163,168	2,782
Minerals, Fuels, Lubricants and Related Materials	..	..	..	..	4,043,310	164	55,102
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats				..	344,064	415	259
Chemicals	..	..	..	..	3,647,650	505,671	88,846
Manufactured Goods Classified Chiefly by Material	..	..	..	..	12,989,438	183,243	195,031
Machinery and Transport Equipment				..	9,313,565	571	291,054
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles				..	3,589,654	162,406	122,995
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities					57,352	194,302	3,791

APPENDIX IV
Imports From India

Commodities	Trinidad		Total imports from all sources	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	in 000lbs.	in \$000	in 000 lbs.	in \$000
Spices	202·1	53·6	775·1	228·7
Vegetable Oils	63·6	18·9	1,300·1	417·2
Leather	14·1	28·7	157·1	199·0
Cotton Fabrics of Standard Type	2,315·4	639·7	10,485·7	4,990·1
Cotton Fabrics, White bleached	270·0	65·4	1,979·5	841·0
Cotton Fabrics, Dyed and coloured	817·4	235·5	3,723·9	2,061·1
Made up Articles of Textile .. .. .	..	610·9	..	1,652·1
Floor Covering and Tapestries	33·3	34·9	993·0	272·6
Footwear .. .. .	..	319·2	..	4,453·2
British Guiana				
	lbs.	\$	Lbs.	\$
Cereal preparations	1	38	57,806,732	4,274,249
Fruit and nuts, fresh (not including oil nuts)	12,816	3,880	..	..
Fresh and dry vegetables, roots and tubers, not including artificially dehydrated	1,642,652	163,844	..	..
Vegetables preserved and vegetable preparations	84	48	..	..
Tea and mate	142,894	241,108	227,647	382,587
Spices	410,034	161,246	..	..
Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals)	1,400	226	..	..
Food preparations, n.e.s. .. .. .	..	115	..	..
Tobacco unmanufactured	42,822	22,996	648,801	753,475

Commodities	Unit	Quantity	Value \$	Total imports from all sources	
				Quantity	Value \$
Crude minerals excluding coal, petroleum, fertilizer materials and precious stones ..	Cwt.	13	266	..	..
Crude animals materials, inedible, n.e.s. ..	lb.	56	72	..	..
Crude vegetable materials, inedible, n.e.s. ..	..	..	3,924	..	..
Vegetable oils ..	lb.	37,481	12,305	}	502,565
Oils and fats processed and waxes of animal or vegetable origin ..	lb.	6,387	1,581		
Organic chemicals ..	lb.	560	318	..	..
Pigments, paints, varnish- es, and related materials	lb.	328	266	2,570,577	1,080,702
Medicinal and pharmaceu- tical products ..	..	..	3,322	..	1,536,212
Essential oils, perfume and flavour materials	lb.	10	51	..	..
Perfumery, cosmetics, soaps, and cleaning and polishing prepa- rations .. ..	..	..	2,328	330,532	144,896
Miscellaneous chemical materials and products ..	..	..	8	..	..
Leather	lb.	75	182	..	..
Rubber fabricated materials	lb.	..	1	..	..
Rubber manufactured articles, n.e.s. ..	..	..	18	..	..
Wood manufactures, n.e.s. ..	..	..	259	..	..
Paper and paperboard	Cwt.	..	40	..	..
Textile yarns and thread	lb.	410	92	..	..
Cotton fabrics of stand- ard type (not includ- ing narrow and special fabrics)	sq. yd.	2,233,024	577,997	7,066,617	2,805,103

Commodities	Unit	Quantity	Value \$	Total imports from all sources	
				Quantity	Value \$
Textile fabrics of stand- ard type (not including narrow and special fabrics), other than cotton fabrics ..	sq. yd.	170	115	7,918,896	7,193,985
Special textile fabrics and related products ..		..	20,080		
Made-up articles wholly or chiefly of textile materials n.e.s. (other than clothing) ..		..	2,510,586		
Floor coverings and tapestries ..	sq. yd.	13,806	18,016	..	..
Pottery ..	Lb.	1,966	382	..	..
Jewellery and gold- smiths and silversmiths wares ..	..	..	240	..	..
Manufactures of metals, n.e.s. ..	..	..	19,477	..	..
Mining construction and other industrial machi- nery ..	..	..	164	..	..
Furniture and fixtures ..	..	..	478	..	..
Travel goods and hand- bags and similar arti- cles ..	..	..	3,073	..	..
Clothing except fur cloth- ing ..	..	..	53,949	..	..
Footwear ..	..	..	133,774	34,889 doz. prs.	547,588
Musical instruments, phonograph records ..	..	..	33,170	..	..
Printed matter ..	..	..	1,023	..	..
Manufactured articles .. n.e.s.	..	..	15,889	..	..
Returned goods and special transactions ..	..	..	2,000	..	..

(Source:—Customs and Excise Department, Georgetown.)

Total Imports And Imports Of Specified Items From India, 1955

Commodities	Total Value of Imports from other Countries		Imports from India	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1. Cotton Fabrics ..			227,633 sq. yds.	13,393
2. Cotton Piece Goods			2,034,704 sq. yds.	117,145
		£ 3,997.55		
3. Bags and Sacks for Packing		1,768,790 sq. yds.	170,567
4. Bed Linen	105,018 lbs.	24,674
5. Tea—Inclusive of the figure for coffee cocoa, spices & nutmeg.	£ 268,779	37,442 lbs.	13,242
6. Hydrogenated Oils & Fats ..		£ 344,064	268,800 lbs.	13,440
7. Other Leather ..		£ 22,579	130,834 lbs.	107,126
8. Footwear	£ 510,754	85,009 Pr.	17,696

APPENDIX V

Customs Tariffs as Revised by Order in Council dated the 25th January 1955

Details	Units of quantity			Rate of import duty		
	First unit	Unit code	Second unit	Unit code	Pref. tariff	General tariff
Dairy products, n.e.s. (ice-cream), (ice-cream powders, malted milk compounds and mixtures, dehydrated products, etc.) Ice-cream and ice-cream powders .. lb.	lb.	04	..	..	20 per cent	36 per cent
Other dairy products n. e. s. (including malted milk compounds and mixtures and other food preparations with a basis of milk and eggs) lb.	lb.	04	..	..	10 per cent	26 per cent
Groats, semeline and cereals, including barley flour and ferinaceous preparations flaked, pearled or powdered lb.	lb.	04	..	..	6 per cent	12 per cent
Malt (c) .. lb.	lb.	04	..	..	6 per cent	12 per cent
Dried fruits including artificial dehydrated lb.	lb.	04	..	..	15 per cent	30 per cent
Tomato pure or paste lb.	lb.	04	..	..	5 per cent	10 per cent
All other .. lb.	lb.	04	..	..	20 per cent	36 per cent
Ginger .. lb.	lb.	04	..	..	\$ 2.00 per 100 lb.	\$ 3.30 per 10 lb.
Coriander seeds and Turmeric .. lb.	lb.	04	..	..	Do.	Do.

APPENDIX V—contd.

Details	Units of quantity			Rate of import duty		
	First unit	Unit code	Second unit	Unit code	Pref. tariff	General tariff
Other .. lb.		04	..	..	\$ 3.40 per 100 lb.	\$ 6.00 per 100 lb.
Mustard Seeds .. lb.		04	..	..	\$ 1.95 per 100 lb.	\$ 3.25 per 100 lb.
Other .. lb.		04	..	..	10 per cent	26 per cent
Clay, including fire clay .. cwt.		05	..	..	3 per cent	10 per cent
Power kerosene (vapo- rising oil or white spirit) .. Bls.		29	Ton	06	6 cents per Gal.	11 cents per Gal.
Olive Oil, refined (for table use) .. lb.		04	Gal.	09	10 per cent	20 per cent
Mustard Oil .. lb.		04	Gal.	09	10 per cent	20 per cent
Saccharine and other artificial sweetening substances
Sachharine and other artificial sweetening substances, n.e.s. .. lb.		04	..	..	\$ 3.00 per oz.	\$ 6.00 per oz.
Saccharine tablets (n.e.s. 1 grain tablets lb.		04	..	..	3 cents per doz.	6 cents per doz.
Machinery belting (of rubber or balate) .. lb.		04	..	..	3 per cent	10 per cent
Other soft articles e.g. rubber gloves .. lb.		04	..	..	20 per cent	36 per cent

APPENDIX V—contd.

Details	Units of quantity			Rate of import duty		
	First unit	Unit code	Second unit	Unit code	Pref. tariff	General tariff
Other articles or hard rubber, n.e.s. .. lb.		04	..	..	20	36
					per cent	per cent
Hand tools and implements including parts lb.		04	..	..	5	10
					per cent	per cent
All Other .. lb.		04	..	..	20	36
Common packing and wrapping paper Cwt.		05	..	..	10	26
					per cent	per cent
Fabrics made of regenerated or partly regenerated cellulose protein or similar fibres mixed with other materials (regenerated cellulose protein or similar fibre being the chief component by weight) .. Sq. Yd.		18	lb.	04	8	13
					per cent	per cent
Special products of textile materials and of related materials, n.e.s.
Filtering materials including filter, press cloth and articles and materials of textile used as parts of industrial machinery lb.		04	..	..	3	10
					per cent	per cent
Machinery belting of canvas or other textile materials .. lb.		04	..	..	3	10
					per cent	per cent
All other, n.e.s.	20	36
					per cent	per cent

APPENDIX V—contd.

Details	Unit of Quantity			Rate of import duty		
	First unit	Unit code	Second unit	Unit code	Prof. tariff	General tariff
Of asbestos ..	Cwt.	05	..	..	5	10
					per cent	per cent
Of asphalt or similar materials ..	Cwt.	05	..	..	5	10
					per cent	per cent
Of other materials ..	..	..	..	..	3	10
					per cent	per cent
Steel tubes and fittings, welded or drawn ..	Cwt.	05	..	..	3	10
					per cent	per cent
Flat sheets including rolls ..	lb.	04	..	..	5	10
					per cent	per cent
For agricultural and horticultural purposes ..	lb.	04	..	..	5	10
					per cent	per cent
Other tools of iron and steel (including artisan's tools) ..	lb.	04	..	..	5	10
					per cent	per cent
For liquid and gases (i.e. tanks drums and cylinders) ..	No.	01	lb.	04	2	5
					per cent	per cent
Other ..	No.	01	lb.	04	20	33
					per cent	per cent
Gasolene Engines for road vehicles ..	No.	01	Cwt.	05	23	43
					per cent	per cent
Diesel and semi-diesel engines for road vehicles ..	No.	01	Cwt.	05	23	43
					per cent	per cent
Welding machinery & parts (electric) ..	lb.	04	..	..	3	10
					per cent	per cent

APPENDIX V—contd.

Detail	Unit of Quantity			Rate of import duty		
	First unit	Unit code	Second unit	Unit code	Pref. tariff	General tariff
Other household cooking and heating appliances e.g. hot-plates, toasters, iron sun lamps, etc. ..	..	..	..	..	20	36
Electric Machinery apparatus and appliances n.e.s. and parts of accessories not assignable to a particular class of electric machinery ..	..	..	..	..	per cent	per cent
Vests for men and boys	Doz.	12	..	..	19	33
					per cent	per cent
Vests for women and girls	Doz.	12	..	..	18	33
					per cent	per cent
Other knitted underwear and nightwear for men and boys	No.	1	..	..	18	33
					per cent	per cent
Other knitted underwear and nightwear for women and girls (petticoats, panties etc.) ..	No.	1	..	..	18	33
					per cent	per cent
Undergarments for infants ..	No.	1	..	..	18	33
					per cent	per cent
Corsets, girdles and athletic sports ..	..	..	..	..	18	33
					per cent	per cent
Clothing, n.e.s. (handkerchiefs, armbands, ties, scarves, shawls, collars, suspenders and similar articles) ..	..	..	..	..	20	36
					per cent	per cent
With soles of rubber	Doz. Pr.	24	..	..	5	9
					per cent	per cent
Rubber footwear ..	Doz. Pr.	24	..	..	5	9
					per cent	per cent

APPENDIX V—contd.

Details	Units of quantity			Rate of import duty		
	First unit	Unit code	Second unit	Unit code	First tariff	General tariff
Footwear with soles of any material and uppers of any material, n.e.s. ..	Doz. Pr.	24	..	..	5 per cent	9 per cent
All other (e.g. gaiters, spatts, leggings, puttees) ..	lb.	04	..	..	18 per cent	33 per cent

PART B

Item 4 of the table of Export Duties shall be renumbered as item 6; and the following new items shall be inserted after item 3—

- “4. Tropical Fish 10 per cent.
 5. Manufactured articles, n.e.s. Free”.

